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# We Are ... Marshall, April 30, 2004

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# ***We Are...Marshall!***

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • APRIL 30, 2004

## ***167th Commencement Set for May 8***



*Similar scenes to this one from 2003 will be re-enacted at this year's Commencement on May 8.*

Marshall University will again eclipse a milestone with the awarding of nearly 2,800 degrees, the most in school history, during its 167th graduation exercise at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8 at Huntington's Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

The total number of graduates better the previous high of 2,656, set in 2003. Also, 87 students will graduate *summa cum laude* (3.85 GPA or higher), which also is the most in school history. The previous high was 70, in 2002.

Thirteen students will graduate with perfect 4.0 grade point averages, and total of 513 undergraduate students are graduating with honors.

MU Registrar Roberta Ferguson said the tentative number of graduates this spring is 2,867, or 109 higher than the previous record of 2,758 set in 2003. Marshall

### ***Graduate Hoodings Slated for May 6-7***

Hooding ceremonies to honor master's and doctoral degree recipients will take place in Charleston and Huntington next week on separate days prior to Marshall's commencement on Saturday, May 8.

The Charleston ceremony takes place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at the Charleston Civic Center Coliseum. In Huntington, the ceremony is set for 7 p.m. Friday, May 7, in the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium at Huntington City Hall. Nearly 400 graduates are expected to attend the two ceremonies. Each graduate will be recognized individually when a faculty member presents a hood in a color indicative of the recipient's field of study.

In addition, the following individuals will be honored with the Ashland Inc. Outstanding Graduate Advising Awards: Dr. R. Daniel Martin, Huntington campus, and Dr. Carolyn H. Suppa, South Charleston campus.

An associate professor of Exercise Science, Sport and Recreation, Martin is recognized for his commitment to the students he advises (both graduate and undergraduate) and his overall contributions to the College of Education and Human Services.

Suppa, associate professor of Counseling, is known for her willingness to mentor students through the graduate education process, as well as her many contributions to the Counseling program.

The Distinguished Graduate Student Alumnus Awards will be given to Ted Obomanu for the Huntington campus and Carolanne Griffith Roberts for the South Charleston campus.

tentatively announced a record 2,758 graduates last year, but the actual number slipped to 2,656 after spring grades were compiled.

The 2004 Commencement starts at 10 a.m. at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena. U.S. Congressman Nick Joe Rahall, II will be the guest speaker. Four people also will receive honorary degrees. They are Burl Osbourne of Dallas, Albin G. Wheeler of Springfield, Va., Robert E. Fox of Lexington, Ky., and Rahall, who lives in Beckley.

President Dan Angel attributes the continuing trend of a record number of graduates and honor students to the dedication of university's faculty and the students themselves, and the school's growing presence as an education leader and research-intensive institution.

"If you look at the growth of Marshall University during the past decade, much of our success has to be attributed to our dedicated faculty and the quality of students that we are attracting," Angel said. "Marshall is committed to student success, and our continued trend of record growth in both the number and graduates and number of honors graduates is a clear validation of that mission."

Because of limited parking in the downtown area, Marshall will provide shuttle service from campus to the arena prior to and immediately following Commencement.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on the Adelphia Cable System in the Huntington area, as well as on the university's World Wide Web site. The broadcast will begin at 10 a.m. on Marshall University's Educational Informational Channel (Channel 25). Those who wish to view the ceremony on the Web site may view it from a link from the university's home page at [www.marshall.edu](http://www.marshall.edu).

### ***MCTC Commencement is May 7***

State Senator Robert H. "Bob" Plymale will be the speaker at the Marshall Community and Technical College's graduation ceremony Friday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Plymale graduated from Marshall and currently directs the Nick J. Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI) in Huntington. The Marshall Community and Technical Center and RTI have partnered to provide transportation related training in the areas of rail and waterways.

The senator was first elected in 1992 and is currently serving his third four-year term in the West Virginia Senate where he is also chair of the Senate Education Committee and has focused on strengthening the role of community colleges as a force in economic development.

# Faculty Members Honored at Annual Meeting

Dr. Barbara Nicholson, a member of the Marshall University Graduate College faculty since 1993, has been awarded the 2003-04 Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award at Marshall University and Dr. Charles Somerville, associate professor of Biological Sciences, has received the Marshall & Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award.

In addition, three faculty members have won the Pickens-Queen Teacher Award. They are Dr. Jamie Warner, assistant professor of Political Science; Dr. Nicki LoCascio, assistant professor of Biological Sciences; and Lisa Thomas, assistant professor of Communication Disorders.

The awards were announced by Dr. Frances Hensley, associate vice president for Academic Affairs. Recipients were honored at the spring faculty meeting on April 22.

Hedrick Award recipients receive \$5,000, thanks to a gift from Charles B. and Mary Jo Locke Hedrick. The award is named in honor of Charles Hedrick's father, Charles E. Hedrick, a former history professor and later Chairman of the Graduate Council, who planned the graduate program at Marshall. It recognizes a full-time faculty member who has a minimum of seven years' teaching experience at Marshall and has a record of outstanding teaching, scholarship, research and creative activities.

Nicholson teaches in the Leadership Studies program of the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development. She has been active as a visiting faculty member internationally, beginning with a semester at the Universidade Federale do Espirito Santo in Brazil in 1995 and a Fulbright fellowship at Stockholm and Uppsala Universities in Sweden in 1996. Her Fulbright was the first for the West Virginia Graduate College before its merger with Marshall. She also has lectured at St. Petersburg and Moscow Universities in Russia and in the Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Oxford University in England.

Students have praised her for being generous with her time and characterized her as a "humane and intelligent woman who fills the role of the teacher/scholar to the highest and proudest degree." Dr. Ronald Childress, Vice President for Graduate Studies, said "She is an experienced and productive scholar and researcher who is making significant contributions to her department...the institution,

and the broader educational and academic community." Dr. Michael L. Cunningham, chair of the Leadership studies program, says Nicholson pays particular attention to the needs of the adult learner and notes that "she demonstrates a sense of humor, which helps provide a relaxed atmosphere for learning, which is essential to the adult learner."

In addition to her teaching, Nicholson is well known as a researcher who is the author of numerous published articles.



Dr. Barbara Nicholson (right) receives the plaque symbolizing the Hedrick Award from Dr. Gary McIlvain.

Somerville has been at Marshall since 1997 and his specialty is microbiology—"the most exciting and important field of biology," he said. He has been nominated for and won many awards while at Marshall. He won the Marshall University Research Corporation

award for Excellence in Sponsored Research in 1998, and the College of Science Merit Award and the Faculty Merit Award in 1998-99. He also won the Phi Eta Sigma Fabulous Faculty Award in 2001 and was named Researcher of the Year, MU Chapter of Sigma Xi, in 2002.

He received high praise from both students and faculty members. Dr. Jeffrey D. May, Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee in the Department of Biological Sciences, said Somerville works tirelessly to engage students in meaningful research. "Dr. Somerville's accomplishments in teaching are exemplary," May said. "As indicated by student evaluations and letters from his colleagues, Chuck is a superior teacher." Graduate student George Velasco noted, "He is very involved in both teaching and research. Of all the professors that I have ever dealt with in my academic career, Dr. Somerville has been the most approachable and available to students."

Warner has been at Marshall for two years. She says her goal in each class she teaches is to create an environment where students feel free to open up and think in ways foreign to their usual modes of thoughts.

LoCascio says she tries to show "honest enthusiasm in the classroom." And, she says, "At the end of the semester, it is my desire that students have accumulated biological knowledge, are capable of applying this information, have broadened their interests, focused their opinions and enjoyed the process."

Thomas started teaching full time at Marshall in fall 2002 in the Communication Disorders Department. She is a recognized expert in her area of expertise, voice disorders, according to Communications Disorders Chair Kathryn Chezik. Thomas spent 10 years in clinical practice at a local hospital before coming to Marshall and brought with her a reputation as a superb clinician, Chezik said.

Also recognized at the faculty meeting April 22 were Distinguished Service Award winners, Distinguished Artists and Scholars, and retiring faculty.

## We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 14, 2004.

Deadline is May 7.

Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).





## Profile: Alberta Bowyer

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Alberta Bowyer

Alberta Bowyer likens her 20-year stay at the Graduate College in South Charleston to a roller coaster ride, full of thrilling high peaks, a fast pace and only a few plateaus.

Now reminiscing about the good times as she contemplates retirement, Bowyer, who is the administrative assistant senior for MUGC's Community Clinical Services Center, is full of optimism about not only her future but the clinic as well.

Located on a quiet street in Dunbar with more pedestrians than cars, the clinic is a training facility for graduate counseling, psychology and reading students. It provides low-cost services to the community and allows clinical skills to be practiced by students while providing mental health and testing services for individuals in the community who need such services, but lack the resources to pursue other professional assistance.

And the clinic has a cheerleader in Bowyer, who has glowing praise for the students who staff it and the faculty members who supervise them. "The potential of the center is astonishing," she says. "... We provide very low-cost services, the charges are based upon a client's ability to pay but don't exceed \$10 per hour. The students are professionally supervised and we have both day and evening hours."

Her self-described roller-coaster ride at MUGC began 20 years ago when she answered a small newspaper ad for a secretary in the School of Education. With eight years of experience in higher education gained at Shepherd and Fairmont colleges, she was a good fit for the position. The school was preparing for a major accreditation, so much of her time was spent assembling and organizing materials. When within just a few months a position opened up in what was then known as the personnel office, she applied for it and was hired by its director, the late Dr. John Callebs.

She remembers her time in that office fondly. "Dr. Callebs was my mentor; he taught me so much. He was such a brilliant, knowledgeable man."

As the only secretary in the personnel office, she worked closely with the president's office. One of her major tasks was the annual preparation of letters of employment for both full-time and part-time staff—which included dozens of adjunct faculty. "And these were all typed ... the old-fashioned way, on a typewriter!" she recalls with a laugh.

Beginning with the graduate college's longtime president, Dr. James Rowley, she worked with every subsequent president until the merger with Marshall came about in 1997.

When Rowley was appointed interim chancellor of the university system board for one year in 1990, he was succeeded by acting president, Dr. Herbert Jones, Jr., a well-known local businessman and a staunch support of the graduate college since its inception. An avid golfer, Bowyer has particularly fond memories of Jones and his golf ball finding horse. Jones was an enthusiastic equestrian whose favorite horse, Slim, had an uncanny knack for finding golf balls during their regular jaunts along a path that bordered a local golf course. Slim had unerring eye—and nose—for finding abandoned golf balls that duffers erratically fired into the brushy countryside. Jones regularly brought her bags of golf balls, gifts from Slim. "That horse certainly had a gift for quality," Bowyer says with amusement. "The balls he found were usually well-known, expensive brands."

She went to work for Dennis Prisk as an administrative assistant a month after he came to the college as president in 1992 and stayed there until after the graduate college merged

*(continued on page 4)*

## Distinguished Service Awards Given, Faculty Retirees Recognized

Seven individuals received Marshall University's 2003-04 Distinguished Service Awards last week during the spring general faculty meeting at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

In addition, four people received 2003-04 Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards and the CASE Professor of the Year for West Virginia was honored.

Thirteen retiring faculty who have a combined 337 years of service also were recognized during the meeting.

To qualify for Distinguished Service Awards, individuals must have at least 20 years of service at Marshall University, a record of distinguished service to the institution and/or college, and a record of distinguished teaching as evidenced by peer, administrative and/or student evaluations. Each of the winners received \$1,000. They include:

Graduate College, Dr. Joyce East, professor, Humanities, 20 years of service;

Graduate College, Dr. Paul Leary, professor, Education and Professional Development, 35 years of service;

Journalism/Mass Communications, Dr. George Arnold, professor, Journalism, 35 years of service;

Lewis College of Business, Dr. Chandra Akkihal, professor, Finance and Economics, 36 years of service;

College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Bert Gross, professor, Communication Studies, 26 years of service;

College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Clair Matz, professor, Political Science, 34 years of service, awarded posthumously;

School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Dr. Hal Shaver, Dean and professor, 31 years of service in higher education, awarded posthumously.

To be eligible for consideration for Distinguished Artists and scholars Awards, a faculty member either must be tenured or hold a tenure-track appointment. The award recognizes distinction in the fields of artistic and scholarly activity on the part of Marshall faculty.

The 2003-04 Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards were given to:

- Dr. Ashish Chandra, senior recipient for Sciences and Technology, Marketing/Management, 8 years of service;
- Dr. Scott Sarra, a junior recipient for all fields, Math and Applied Science, 3 years of service;
- Dr. Richard Begley, Engineering, 15 years of service, and Dr. Tony Szwilski, Environmental Science and Safety Technology, 19 years of experience, team/joint recipients.

As the senior faculty recipient, Chandra received \$2,000; Sara received \$1,000 as the junior recipient; Begley and Szwilski received \$1,000 each.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Faculty/Staff Achievements

**Dr. Jose L. Morillo** delivered an essay, "Prostitution in Post-War Spain," at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, April 15-17. His review of the book, *Mujeres caídas: Prostitucion en la Espana franquista* has just been published in the literary journal *Ojancano*. Another article, "De los conceptos de la vida y de la muerte," will be published in the Spring 2004 volume of the *South Carolina Modern Language Review*.

## Alberta Bowyer from Page 3

with Marshall and Prisk assumed other roles. The six years she spent in the president's office saw momentous changes for the once-small institution which was then located on the campus of West Virginia State College—now WVU—in Institute.

"It was a wonderful six years of my life," the ever-upbeat Bowyer says. "There were so many major things happening. Probably most important, the president gained approval from the college's foundation board to pursue building a new facility on property in South Charleston which had been donated years before by the Union Carbide Corporation. That was an enormous undertaking; it took months and months of planning and getting the funds together and really hard work to get that project off the ground and underway."

There were other major undertakings that occupied her time during that period. But the biggest event of all by far, according to Bowyer, was the merger of what was then the West Virginia Graduate College with Marshall University. The merger was completed following legislative action in 1997 when the college ceased to exist as an autonomous institution.

The merger brought changes for everyone associated with the former graduate college, but perhaps none underwent more personal changes than Bowyer. The president's office had ceased to exist, but there were still numerous ongoing administrative matters related to the South Charleston campus that had to be addressed. That brought about the assignment of Dr. K. Edward Grose with a directive to split his time between the Huntington and South Charleston campuses over the next year.

"I worked with him during that period until he went back to the Huntington campus full time. When Dr. Joe Mitchell was hired to oversee among other things, Development and Alumni Affairs, he was located here and I worked for him."

"I love challenges," the ebullient Bowyer says, and as it turned out, a new challenge was just on the horizon. When Mitchell left the university in 2001, she was looking at possible opportunities when the clinic position became available. It was a good match from the beginning. Her organizational skills came in handy as the clinic flourished.

A large yellow bow adorns the front door of the clinic, a tribute to her son Brad and other members of the military. Brad is currently serving a 14-month tour of duty in Iraq, and Bowyer and her husband Sonny, who is retired from the West Virginia Department of Education, try to keep in daily contact with him by e-mail. Their daughter Tracy and her family recently moved to Mechanicsville, Virginia, so the Bowyers spend as much time as they can visiting them.

Grandparents to five granddaughters, they share their home in Teays Valley with Willie the cat. They didn't mean to, but a soft-hearted granddaughter picked up a bedraggled stray kitten at a swimming pool. The Bowyers, unable to resist a grandchild's tearful pleas, drove to Clarksburg to pick up the kitten.

So now, as retirement beckons, Bowyer is brimming with optimism and ready for more challenges and fun. The Bowyers are an active family who love the outdoors. After 48 years of marriage, she and Sonny are still compatible golf partners who are looking forward to a leisurely cross-country trip next fall which will include lots of golfing whenever they choose. They're always up for adventure and exploring new challenges, she says, and retirement is going to open up whole new worlds for them. And besides, it will give her more time to spend on her intricately crafted cross-stitched samplers which she makes for friends and family.

And it's not retirement, it's a new direction, she says firmly. "That direction is traveling, relaxing with my family and friends, golfing, gardening, going to movies, and reading," she reflects. "All my jobs have been challenging ... the 20 years have passed [as if] in a dream. The people there have been fabulous, very supportive ... it's a family atmosphere where everyone knows everyone else and they are ready to offer help anytime it is needed. So after all, retirement is not really an ending, it's a beginning!"

## Marshall, YMCA Start Corporate Plan for Huntington Campus

Marshall University is instituting a corporate membership plan with the YMCA in Huntington to encourage the health and wellness of university community members on or near the Huntington campus. This will allow for employees to have the cost of their YMCA membership payroll deducted and receive a cost savings of approximately 10%. This membership is all inclusive and includes the following facilities and programs: May Building, Huntington High YMCA Youth Building and the Kennedy Center Outdoor Recreation Center.

Rate information for the corporate program is as follows:

Membership Type	Regular Rate	Marshall U. Rate	Cost per Pay Period
Single	\$486.00	\$441.00	\$18.38
Mr. & Mrs.	666.00	606.00	25.25
Mr. & Mrs. + 1 child	723.00	657.00	27.38
Mr. & Mrs. + 2 or more children	753.00	685.00	28.50
Single Parent + 1 child	543.00	493.00	20.50
Single Parent + 2 or more children	573.00	520.00	21.75

A one-time, \$50.00 building fee will be added to those who are not currently YMCA members. This is a one time fee as long as the membership stays current, and it must be paid upon signing up.

As part of its efforts to become more proactive in preventive health care, PEIA will be adding a weight management option. Subscribers who have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or greater may qualify for PEIA to cover half the cost of the membership as well as 2 sessions with a personal trainer and 4 with a YMCA Certified Dietician. BMI can be calculated using the Web site at <http://nhlbisupport.com/bmi/bmicalc.htm>.

For further information on the Marshall/YMCA program, contact Jody Perry at [jody.perry@marshall.edu](mailto:jody.perry@marshall.edu).

## Distinguished Service Awards from Page 3

The retiring faculty members recognized were:

- Dr. Dean Adkins, Biological Sciences, 31 years of service;
- Dr. George Arnold, Journalism and Mass Communications, 35 years of service;
- Binni Bieler, Psychiatry, 23 years of service;
- Dr. Bruce Brown, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, 25 years of service;
- Dr. Ronald Crosbie, Exercise Science, Sport and Recreation, 36 years of service;
- Dr. Earl Damewood, Management and Marketing, 15 years of service;
- Dr. William Denman, Communication Studies, 37 years of service;
- Dr. Protip Ghosh, Geology, 22 years of service;
- Dr. Bernard Gillespie, Information Technology and Technology Management, 7 years of service;
- Dr. James Hooper, Information Technology and Technology Management, 13 years of service;
- Dr. Paul Leary, Leadership Studies at Marshall University Graduate College, 35 years of service;
- Elizabeth Nordeen, English, 37 years of service;
- Lenora Rogers, Nursing, 21 years of service.

Also honored was Dr. Steven Mewaldt, Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Professor of the Year for West Virginia.